the request of the entrepreneur.

It is the responsibility of the entrepreneur to take necessary steps towards implementation of the project.

**Procurement of Foodgrains**

2194. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ascertained the latest available estimates of foodgrains procurement during the period 1995-96;

(b) what was the total rice and wheat procurement;

(c) what was his Ministry's target set both for rice and wheat during 1995-96 and what is the target set for this year both for rice and wheat;

(d) whether Government have procured sufficient stocks of both wheat and rice till date;

(e) whether in view of this Government have agreed to release more wheat to the fair price shops in various States; and

(f) if so, the total quantity of wheat and rice released for export?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) A quantity of 123.74 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured during 1995-96 Rabi Marketing season (April-March). During the current 1996-97 Rabi Marketing Season, a quantity of 81.81 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 19.8.1996.

As regards rice, a quantity of 98.60 lakh tonnes (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured for Central pool upto 19.8.96 in the current 1995-96 Kharif Marketing Season (October-September).

(c) Procurement to wheat and paddy from the farmers for Central Pool under minimum support scheme being totally voluntary and the procurement of levy rice from millers/traders being dependent on quantum of paddy purchased by them, no targets, as such, can be fixed for procurement of foodgrains.

(d) The foodgrain stocks in Central Pool on 1st July, 1996 and the minimum buffer stock required on that date are as under :

(In million tonnes)

| Buffer stock | | Actual stock | |
|---|---|---|---|
| wheat | Rice | wheat | Rice |
| 13.1 | 9.2 | 19.2 | 16.4 |

vised to take immediate action against some officials of RINL who were found to have been directly involved. Accordingly, departmental proceedings were in ititated against three officails, two of whom were placed under suspension and also explanations were called from two more officials of Fianace Division of RINL.

Subsequently, the Additional Director General of Foreign Trade and the adjudicating authority cancelled all the ten advance licences issued to RINL vide

Cancellation order dated 27.9.1995 on the following grounds:—

(i) that VSP availed credit of MODVAT on the inputs used in the manufacture of the products which were exported under the said licences; and

(ii) that VSP did not maintain the account of consumption and utilisation of goods imported against these licences.

RINL has filed an appeal before the Appeliate Committee in the Ministry of Commerce against the cancellation orders of the Additional DGFT and the entire matter is subjudice.

(c) Allotment of wheat and rice for Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System to State/Union Territories are made on a month to month basis based on the demands received from various States/UTs, their relative needs, off-take trend, stocks in the Central Pool, seasonal availability etc. These allotments from Central Pool are only supplementary to the open market availability.

(f) In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, Government had authorised the Food Corporation of India to export/sell for the purposes of export upto 30 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine variety of rice and 25 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat during 1995-96.

The FCI has further been authorised to export/sell for the purposes of export upto 5.0 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat against carry-over commitment of 1995-96 and upto 5.0 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine variety of rice, including the carrry-over commitment of 1995-96, from publice stocks during 1996-97.

**Sale of vabal in Visakhapatanam steel plant**

2195. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any report of mis appropriation with respect to the sale of VABAL in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has come to notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 obtained, uner the provisions of EXIM Policy, advance import licences having a total CIF value of Rs. 477.86 crores. Since import requirement of VSP were limited, it decided to sell the surplus licences in the market as permissible under the EXIM policy. Accordingly, based on overall highest bidding, all the 10 licences were sold to a single party at a premium of 9.2% of the CIF value in February, 1994.

In February, 1995, on receipt of complaints from Department of Revenue about irregularities in the issue of advance licences to RINL and their transfer to M/s. Roopali Agencies (Pvt.) Limited, a preliminary enquiry was immediately conducted by Ministry of Steel and based on the findings of this enquiry, the Executive Director (Vigilance), RINL was directed to conduct a detailed investigation and submit his report by 31.3.1995. On receipt of the report from ED (Vigilance), RINL, the matter was considered in the Ministry and the Management was ad-

**Re-structuring of PDS**

2196. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the restructuring of PDS and subsidies cost of foodgrains to be made available at these centres at 50% price to the "Poor living below poverty line" (PLBPL) will raise food subsidy to about Rs. 10 crores as

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